Food Control Advisory Committee.

2. *MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Food Control Advisory Committee recently constituted by them ever met, and when?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Food Grains Purchase Officer*): Yes; on the 28th June 1943.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know from Government whether the committee came to any definite conclusion on any specific matter?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: Yes, Sir. They were of the opinion that excess purchase must be immediately carried on more effectively and that for that purpose the local committees must be reconstituted wherever they are not properly functioning and that where they do not now exist they may be immediately constituted in consultation with the members of the Legislature in the respective taluks. The committee also came to the conclusion that the present system of purchase on acreage basis may be modified and the quota purchase effected on the basis of the settlement pattom. The proceedings of the committee are published in the book entitled "Food Control in Travancore" copies of which have been supplied to the members of the Legislature. The matter is dealt with from pages 58 to 61.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Thiruvalla*): May I know whether anything has been decided as to the distribution of stock on hand?

MR. A. S DAMODARAN ASAN: The question of distribution has not been considered at that meeting, but it was decided that the matter would be considered at the next meeting.

Control of the price of meals in hotels.

3. *MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN (*Chirayinkil* cum *Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have imposed any conditions about the price of meals *etc.*, in the hotels to which they sell rice and sugar?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: No.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: Are the Government aware that the price of meals in the hotels is excessive?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: No. Government are not aware.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: May I know whether Government will kindly enquire into that matter?

PRESIDENT: What is the answer which the honourable member suggests in respect of this question?

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: There is a complaint from the public that many hotel managers are charging high rates for meals. It is better that Government put a control in that matter.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: Government have not considered the question of exercising control over the hotels in the matter of meals.

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MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*) :ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽ നിന്നുമല്ലേ അരിസപ്ലൈ ചെയ്യുന്നത്?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN : Rice is being supplied to all deserving people.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN : ഹോട്ടലിൽ അരി സപ്ലൈ ചെയ്യുന്നതു അവക്കു തോന്നിയ വിലയ്ക്കു വിൽക്കാനാണോ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN : Government think that no control is necessary over the price of meals in the hotels for that reason.

PRESIDENT : There are practical difficulties with regard to hotels. If they supply cooked rice and charge heavy rates, then perhaps some kind of control may be started. Supposing they supply rice in the form of *Uppuma* or something like that, how is the Government going to decide as to the amount of cost for this material or the amount that one has to pay for such material and all the rest of it? All that can be stated is that if Government find that there are cases of extortion in the matter of rates and if such matters are brought to the notice of Government, then there might be occasion for Government to fix what is called an upper ceiling price in regard to meals. At present no such representation has come to Government.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : In the case of rice supply of hotels, do the Government interest themselves in seeing that what is so supplied is properly disposed of to the public? I shall just give an illustration so that my honourable friend can answer it. In the case of arack supplied to shop keepers, some control is exercised by Government. Could not such a thing be done in the case of rice supplied to hotels?

MR. A. S DAMODARAN ASAN : If it is found that any hotel is not properly carrying out its function with the rice supplied by Government, the question of discontinuing supply for that particular hotel will be considered.

Transport of paddy and rice.

4. * MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP (*Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertala*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether transport of paddy or rice from pakuthi to pakuthi in the same taluk is prohibited ;

(*b*) whether they have received complaints of difficulty or annoyance due to the same ;

(*c*) whether they had been informed about such difficulty by the cultivators or their representatives ; and

(*d*) what action has been taken on the information ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN : (*a*) No.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (*c*).

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